EAC Roundtable
December 2, 2010
EAC Meeting Room
Washington, DC

Purpose

With the 2010 Election Cycle slowly coming to a close and people's attention already turning to the 2011 and 2012 election cycles new challenges are emerging. Jurisdictions that purchased HAVA-funded voting systems are beginning to express concerns about the sustainability of those systems. The life-expectancy of voting systems may not be aligned with state and county budgets for replacement. Advances in security and accessibility have not made their way from research to implementation at a speed that meets the needs of voters and advocacy groups.

This Roundtable will explore voting system life expectancy and related issues from the perspective of voting system manufacturers and the jurisdictions that use the system. Additional perspective will be provided by testing labs and the EAC.

Attendees

EAC Commissioners
Voting System Manufacturers
Voting System Test Labs
EAC Consultants
State Election Officials
County Election Officials

Agenda

1:30 pm	Introduction	Brian Hancock
1:40 pm	Overview of Roundtable goals and procedures	Merle S. King
1:45 pm	Questions	

1. The 2010 November elections saw the introduction of new voting machines in New York and the use of mature voting systems across the rest of the country. Recap lessons learned from the November 2010 elections from your perspective. How will these lessons be incorporated into planning for the 2012 election cycle? What did you see as the major problems during the 2010 General Election? Were there issues specific to the security of the systems used in 2010? Were there accessibility issues? What are your plans/expectations for improvements for the 2012 election cycle? Do you have any plans for additional security and/or accessibility enhancements for the 2012 election?

2. A voting system consists of a myriad of subsystems, each with their own life cycle. How can the life expectancy of a voting system be predicted? Do the expectations of manufacturers and jurisdictions differ? Can life expectancy metrics be established and tested? Do voting system manufacturers know and communicate the required level of maintenance to sustain their voting systems? How have jurisdiction budgets impacted maintenance practices?

3. How can voting system's life be extended? What are the maintenance issues? Can improvements be incrementally added to existing systems or is it preferable to replace systems with a next generation, re-engineered product. Does an incremental strategy improve or compromise testability? What are the costs to a jurisdiction of changing a voting system? What criteria will lead a jurisdiction to make the replacement decision?

4. Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS) components can impact the design and delivery cost of a voting system. How does COTS impact the sustainability of the voting system? Can increased or more judicious use of COTS components improve the sustainability of the voting system? In what way does the use of COTS impact the cost of testing a voting system? The cost of sustaining a voting system?

5. Consumables, such as batteries, ribbons, etc. are an integral, yet sometimes overlooked parts of the voting system. What can be done to improve the management of consumables and their impact on the sustainability of the voting system?

6. Lessons learned and RFPs. What trends are voting system manufacturers seeing in RFPs regarding life expectancy and sustainability of voting systems? What lessons have jurisdictions learned that will be incorporated into future RFPs? If your jurisdiction were to issue an RFP in the coming year, would special consideration be given to accessibility issues? To security issues? When developing RFPs, do jurisdictions take into account specific, testable criteria?

4:30 pm Summary statements by EAC Commissioners

4:45 pm Summary statement by Merle S. King

5:00 pm Adjourn